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January-December 1986

*Project Managers: Ronald E. Dolan
Rodney P. Katz
Russell R. Ross*

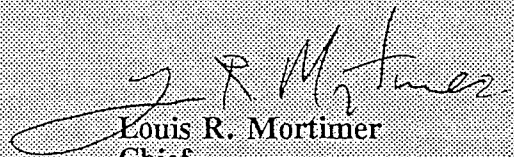
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EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

January 1986

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in December 1985. Most of the items reported in this issue date from November 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 December 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Ronald Cima, Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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CHINA

During December 1985, Chinese reactions to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) continued to follow a familiar theme--that it represented a "qualitative escalation" in the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, and a "major obstacle" in disarmament talks.

An article in the August/September 1985 issue of the Chinese popular science magazine Hangtian [Spaceflight] (Beijing) detailed the five elements of the SDI program--sensors, directed-energy weapons, kinetic-energy weapons, systems analysis, and survivability of operational commands and systems, and their progress to date. The article stated that the main goal of the United States in carrying out SDI was to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union, an undertaking that went clearly beyond the Kremlin's threshold of tolerance, and that would compel Moscow to erect countervailing systems. This point was reiterated in the 9 December 1985 issue of Beijing Review which claimed that both the United States and the Soviet Union were "scrambling for the occupation of the 'high frontier'" and developing "advanced space-based strike weapons capable of attacking targets not only in outer space, but also on the ground, on the sea, and in the air." The article noted that whichever country succeeded in establishing an effective strategic defense system and in capturing an "overwhelming 'first strike' capability," would get the military upper hand over its counterpart.

CHINA

"Anti-SDI Media Blitz in Moscow." China Daily (Beijing), 15 November 1985, p. 1.

"End Space Arms Race - UN Call." China Daily (Beijing), 11 November 1985, p. 4.

FBIS/China, 2 December 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 2 December 1985, p. C2.

FBIS/China, 9 December 1985, pp. A5-6.

FBIS/China, 10 December 1985, pp. B3-4.

FBIS/China, 12 December 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 16 December 1985, p. B3.

FBIS/China, 19 December 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 20 December 1985, pp. A3-6.

FBIS/China, 23 December 1985, pp. A3-4.

FBIS/China, 30 December 1985, pp. C3-4.

FBIS/China, 30 December 1985, pp. G1-2.

Hu Jie. "Eureka Signals Shift in Western Alliance." Beijing Review, 25 November 1985, pp. 15-17, 20.

Sa Benwang. "A Qualitative Escalation in the Superpowers Arms Race." Beijing Review, 9 December 1985, pp. 15-16.

"'Star Wars' Plan Flayed by Brandt." China Daily (Beijing), 13 November 1985, p. 4.

Sun Jian. "Questions and Answers about the 'Star Wars' Program." Hangtian [Spaceflight] (Beijing), August/September 1985, pp. 6-8, 16-17.

"US 'May Go It Alone on SDI.'" China Daily (Beijing), 8 November 1985, p. 8.

Worldwide Report ARMS CONTROL, JPRS-TAC-85-059, 29 November 1985, pp. 1-5.

Xia Zhimian. "Eureka - Cementing the Uncertainty." Beijing Review, 18 November 1985, p. 14.

Yi Ming. "US-Soviet Summit - Better Relations on the Horizon?" Beijing Review, 2 December 1985, p. 11.

INDONESIA

During the latest reporting period, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), within the context of the Geneva Summit, became the subject of more than usual editorial commentary in the Jakarta media. In its most telling remark, the left-of-center Indonesian Observer noted elliptically that the erection of a space defense system by one superpower would lead inexorably to a parallel undertaking by the other. The paper also publicized, with careful attention to accuracy, the Soviet view of SDI--that it was "plainly a first step towards the extension of wars to the outer space." In another editorial, the Observer noted that the success of Moscow's strong public relations campaign preceding the summit indicated that "general world opinion is in favor of Soviet endeavor for halting the arms race on this planet and its extension to outer space." The moderate Indonesia Times confined itself to noting that both superpowers still differed "deeply on the question of the 'Star Wars,' strategic parity and equal security." In an earlier article, the Times reported the declaration by President Ronald Reagan that the SDI shield would not be deployed until the United States dismantled its own nuclear arsenal and gave equal space to the subsequent White House clarification that Washington would not disarm unilaterally, but would expect reciprocal actions by the Soviet Union.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 13 November 1985, p. 3.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 20 November 1985, p. 3.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 23 November 1985, p. 3.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 6 November 1985, p. 7.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 18 November 1985, p. 7.

JAPAN

Japanese press reports in December provided conflicting accounts of Japanese official thinking on the timing of a decision on government-level participation in the SDI research program. Some officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) reportedly indicated that a decision could be made public as early as April 1986, although Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe hinted that it could take as long as 2 years while Japan assesses its potential role amid US-Soviet dialogue on the subject.

Abe also stated that Japan wanted to watch East-West relations and especially the US-Soviet dialogue on "Star Wars," indicating a need to take into account Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to Washington planned for 1986, and a reciprocal trip by US President Ronald Reagan to Moscow the following year. In a speech to the Japan National Press Club on 10 December, Abe declared that the time was not ripe for Japanese participation in the research program, although Japan undertook the SDI research effort.

There has been speculation in the Japanese press, citing "sources close to the Foreign Minister," that Abe, a Fukuda faction member who unsuccessfully ran against Nakasone in the Liberal Democratic Party primary election in November 1982, may be using the SDI issue to establish a "dovish" image in preparation for another bid for party leadership following Nakasone's second term. In a mid-November television interview, Abe defended further study of the research proposals by noting that there was also opposition to SDI in the US Congress and among European countries.

A press report in early December based on unnamed official sources stated that an immediate decision on the controversial subject could cause complications for questions that are pending before the current Diet session, including the FY86 budget and a Diet reapportionment bill. There is also said to be a need for interagency coordination on the issue.

In other press coverage, MOFA sources reportedly noted that the absence of a domestic espionage law made Japanese participation in SDI research difficult. The program may be one of several topics discussed, if Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe visits Europe in April in preparation for the Tokyo summit of advanced Western industrial nations scheduled for May.

In the meantime, Japan will send a second team of military and science specialists from key ministries to the United States in mid-January for talks with the US Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO).

In contrast to this gesture, however, more than 1,500 Japanese physicists from 88 universities have signed a joint statement opposing SDI research in a campaign that has been underway since mid-October.

JAPAN

Asahi News Service, 10 December 1985. [NEXIS]

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 5 December 1985, pp. 4-5.

Japan Report, JPRS-JAR-85-025, 16 December 1985, pp. 13-14, 18.

Japan Report, JPRS-JAR-85-044-L, 18 December 1985, p. 32.

"Japanese Foreign Minister on Soviet Foreign Minister's January Visit."
Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 10 December 1985. [NEXIS]

Jiji Press Ticker Service, 9 December 1985. [NEXIS]

Schweisberg, David R. "Japan not yet Willing to Join 'Star Wars'." United
Press International, BC cycle, 22 December 1985. [NEXIS]

Schweisberg, David R. "Japan Sending Teams for 'Star Wars' Talks." United
Press International, AM cycle, 25 December 1985. [NEXIS]

KOREA (NORTH)

During December, North Korea expressed a strongly negative position concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Early in the month, Pyongyang Domestic Service claimed that the United States was planning to build a satellite communication facility in Taegu, South Korea to monitor space-based weapons. According to the broadcast, Seoul was powerless to oppose this plan because it was Washington's "puppet."

Previously, on 30 November, Nodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, argued that US intransigence on SDI at Geneva prevented the two superpowers from agreeing on issues related to nuclear arms reductions. Nodong Sinmun also claimed that the United States was not really interested in negotiating nuclear parity, because it hoped to regain nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union through SDI. In the meantime, a Pyongyang broadcast attempted to rally South Koreans behind the issue of disarmament and to incite some detachment of Seoul from its principal ally, the United States. The radio appeal demanded that the United States stop deploying nuclear weapons to South Korea and trying to involve South Korea in SDI. It called on the South Korean people to oppose US nuclear policies and to cooperate with North Korea in a unified campaign to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free zone.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 4 December 1985, pp. D7-8.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 5 December 1985, pp. D4-5.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 9 December 1985, pp. D1-3, D5-6.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 11 December 1985, pp. D1-2.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 12 December 1985, pp. D2.

VIETNAM

In an article praising developments in Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation resulting from a meeting between Vietnamese Party Secretary Le Duan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, Vietnam expressed its support for the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, specifically Gorbachev's proposals for a moratorium on the production and deployment of "nuclear and space weapons."

Official disapprobation of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) also was voiced in a Radio Hanoi broadcast to its domestic audience. The commentary noted that "the US President . . . continued to justify the stubborn US stand concerning the SDI program . . .," and noted that Washington continued "to accelerate the SDI program--'Star Wars'--which has been strongly opposed."

VIETNAM

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 9 December 1985, p. K1.

Vietnam Courier (Hanoi), August 1985, p. 1.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

February 1986

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in December 1985. Most of the items reported in this issue date from December 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 February 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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CHINA

In January 1986, Chinese reporting on SDI was limited to brief accounts of US and Soviet statements on the program.

A 14 December 1985 China Daily (Beijing) article reported the adoption of a UN resolution to prevent an arms race in outer space. The resolution, submitted in late October 1985 and adopted in December 1985, was cosponsored by China. Other reports received in January relate the opposition of several international organizations to SDI.

CHINA

China Report: Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-85-120,
17 December 1985, p. 58.

China Report: Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-120,
17 December 1985, p. 63.

China Report: Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-85-121,
19 December 1985, p. 9.

"China Views Results of US-Soviet Summit." China Daily (Beijing), vol. 5,
no. 1353, 23 November 1985, p. 1.

FBIS/China, 3 January 1986, p. C2.

FBIS/China, 31 January 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 31 January 1986, p. C1.

"Scientists Condemn 'Star Wars.'" China Daily (Beijing), 13 December 1985,
p. 4.

"UN Calls for End of Arms Race in Space." China Daily (Beijing), 14 December
1985, p. 1.

US-Soviet Summit Talks Draw Worldwide Attention." China Daily (Beijing),
19 November 1985, p. 4.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-071, 31 December 1985, p. 13.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-064, 13 December 1985, p. 6.

INDONESIA

Commentary on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was absent from the Jakarta media during the latest reporting period. The left-of-center Indonesian Observer did undertake, however, the reprinting of three wire-service (Agence France Presse--AFP and Associated Press--AP) stories. The two AFP stories reflected a degree of disapprobation with the US program. The first noted that the SDI was a system riven with imperfections and one against which Moscow surely would take appropriate countermeasures. The second repeated the observations of some Western European strategists that the SDI was both dubious and expensive. The third article was more balanced in its presentation and related the unbreachable rift, as reflected in the Geneva talks, that continued to exist between Washington and Moscow on a space-based defense system.

The moderate Indonesia Times also reprinted two wire-service stories on the Strategic Defense Initiative. One reported the characterization of the SDI by a Soviet scientist as "one more step toward nuclear catastrophe." The second noted that London would cooperate with Washington's space-defense research program, becoming the first NATO ally to reach such a momentous decision.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 6 December 1985, p. 3.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 18 December 1985, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 16 January 1986, p. 1.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 7 December 1985, p. 7.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 13 December 1985, p. 7.

JAPAN

During a visit to Washington on 9 January, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger that Japan was still studying SDI participation. A nine-member government team visited Washington from 15 January to 22 January to study areas of possible technical cooperation in SDI research.

There appeared to be increasing Japanese Government interest in private-sector approaches to participation in SDI research. On 22 January Abe discussed this subject with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Deitrich Genscher in Bonn, and Japanese officials told the press that the West German Government had decided against official involvement but was negotiating an agreement with the United States on conditions of participation by private firms. Late in the month Japan's major business daily Keizai Shimbun reported that the government had held informal talks with more than 10 interested companies. These talks resulted in a proposal for direct private sector participation that would not require a formal intergovernmental agreement with the United States.

Soviet pressure against SDI participation continued. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, in Tokyo for talks on 15 January, urged Japan not to take part in SDI research. Late in December, Soviet press commentary, citing a 1983 technology transfer agreement between Japan and the United States, stated that Japanese technology already was being used in SDI research against the will of the Japanese people and Diet and that Japan bore "grave responsibility for militarizing space."

JAPAN

"Excerpts from Commentary by Aleksandrov, 'Japan and 'Star Wars'," The British Broadcasting Corporation, 11 January 1986. [NEXIS]

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 23 January 1986, p. C4.

"Government Starts Sorting Out Problems as to Corporate SDI Participation," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 27 January 1986. [NEXIS]

"Japan Asks U.S. to Uphold Policy of Not Linking Trade with Defense," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 10 January 1986. [NEXIS]

"Japan Seeks West German Views on 'Star Wars' Project," Reuters North European Service, 23 January 1986, AM Cycle. [NEXIS]

"Shun 'Star Wars,' Shevardnadze Urges in Tokyo," New York Times, 16 January 1986, p. A13.

KOREA (NORTH)

During the reporting period, North Korean media coverage on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was minimal. Pyongyang's support for the Soviet Union's nuclear disarmament proposals and opposition to the SDI program was reiterated in a joint communique published at the conclusion of North Korean Premier Kang Sang-son's official visit to Moscow in late December 1985. On 10 January, Nondong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, criticized the United States for "viciously" going ahead with SDI-related research and again implied that the United States had pressured South Korea into supporting the US space defense program. However, the fact that the lengthy editorial mentioned SDI only briefly--the primary focus was on US deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to South Korea--placed Pyongyang's concern with SDI in perspective. North Korea appeared to be far more concerned about tactical nuclear weapons already in place than about future development of space-based missile systems.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 31 December 1985, pp. D6-8.

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 13 January 1986, pp. D10-14.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

March 1986

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) compiled herein are an update to those transmitted under the same title in February 1986. Most of the items reported in this issue date from January 1986. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 March 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Ronald Cima, Ronald E. Dolan, Beth Green, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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CAMBODIA

In February 1986, PRK Foreign Minister Hun Sen, in an interview with Soviet television, declared that it was "necessary to stop the arms race on earth and prevent its extension into space." Hun also stressed that the Soviet peace plan envisaging complete dismantling of nuclear weapons by the end of the century was supported by all concerned with the future of mankind. The Cambodian people are for the elimination of the threat of nuclear war stirred up by the United States, he added.

CAMBODIA

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 19 February 1986, p. H1.

CHINA

During February 1986, China reported statements by US officials that SDI research and development would continue, along with assertions by Soviet leaders that a US space defense system constituted a "major obstacle to strategic arms negotiations." Late in the month, a Xinhua report on President Reagan's response to an arms-control proposal from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev indicated that the Soviet Union had not raised SDI as an obstacle to negotiations.

An October 1985 Shijie Zhishi article reported that the Soviet Union began experimenting with space weapons in the 1950s. Also, a review of antisatellite and other space weapons in the November 1985 issue of Hangtian revealed that the Soviet Union had tested antisatellite weapons in 1968 and had carried out a "space war exercise" in 1982. In the articles, US antisatellite weapons research and development, which began in 1983, was cast as a response to these Soviet military activities in outer space.

CHINA

China Report: Science and Technology, JPRS-CST-86-006, 13 February 1986, p. 1.

China Report: Political, Sociological and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-86-004, 15 January 1986, p. 1.

Fang Min. "US-Soviet Relations--A Year Filled with Dissent, Discourse." Beijing Review, 20 January, 1986, p. 14.

FBIS/China, 4 February 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 5 February 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 6 February 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 10 February 1986, p. A2.

FBIS/China, 10 February 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 11 February 1986, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 12 February 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 19 February 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 20 February 1986, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 24 February 1986, p. B3.

FBIS/China, 24 February 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 24 February 1986, p. C2.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-86-012, 31 January 1986, p. 18.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-86-012, 31 January 1986, p. 19.

INDONESIA

In one of the most telling editorials on the subject to appear in Jakarta's Indonesian-language media, the left-of-center Merdeka levelled heavy criticism at the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) during the reporting period. The slanted article, reflecting the bias of, and probably written by, pro-Soviet publisher B.M. Diah himself, attacked the US space defense program, using a number of themes. The first was the futility of the project in the face of proposed Soviet countermeasures. The second was the enormity of the expense that development and deployment of the system would entail. The third was the judgment that the SDI was but another concomitant of capitalistic decadence aimed at maximizing profits for defense entrepreneurs.

In the English-language, left-of-center Indonesian Observer, also owned by Diah, two cartoons attacked the SDI more subtly. Both stressed the unreliability of any space defense system by playing upon the tragedy of the Challenger-II space shuttle, while one caption noted that the SDI was "the major stumbling block" to Soviet disarmament proposals.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 31 January 1986, p. 4.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 3 February 1986, p. 4.

US Embassy Translation Unit (Jakarta). Press Review no. 1/1986, 2 January 1986, p. 1.

JAPAN

In February, the Japanese Government appeared to be engaged in further consensus-building on the question of private-sector participation in Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research. An official of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was reported as having told the Foreign Ministry to study ways for private companies to participate without government involvement, and Asahi Shimbun reported that Tokyo planned to send a mixed government and private-sector team to Washington for further talks. Spokesmen for the Foreign Ministry played down these stories, indicating the need for caution and further study. However, late in the month Nihon Keizai Shimbun quoted a leading banker's statement that three Japanese corporations--Fujitsu, Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries, and Tochu Trading Company--were setting up a joint team to study SDI participation. This development followed earlier reports that the Japanese Government had held informal talks with 10 companies in January.

In statements to the Diet, Minister of International Trade and Industry Michio Watanabe declared that Japan might permit the sharing of technology with non-US SDI participants, including Britain and Germany. Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told a Diet committee that the most important consideration in a decision to participate would be that shared technology would be non-nuclear. Nakasone also stated that he would not postpone a decision indefinitely.

JAPAN

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 18 February 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 19 February 1986, p. C1.

"Foreign Ministry Official Cautious about Fujio Proposal on SDI," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 14 February 1986. (NEXIS)

"Gov't to Mull W. German-style SDI Participation," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 14 February 1986. (NEXIS)

"Japan Plans to Send SDI Team to US." China Daily (Beijing), 26 December 1985, p. 8.

"Japan Said to Favor Private Participation in 'Star Wars,'" United Press International, 19 February 1986, BC Cycle.

KOREA (NORTH)

During February, Pyongyang media coverage on the Strategic Defense Initiative was sparse and indirect. North Korean leaders did not comment specifically on SDI-related research, in contrast to their occasional remarks on SDI in previous months.

In late January, the North Korean Government organized a domestic propaganda campaign to demonstrate support for Soviet arms-control proposals. The campaign began when Nodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, commented on a 15 January speech by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in which the Soviet leader reiterated arguments against SDI, and called for the United States to agree with the Kremlin's proposals for phasing out all nuclear weapons over a 15-year period. Nodong Sinmun described Gorbachev's speech as "a new important proposal for peace," and said that the US reaction would be "another test case for judging the consistency of its words and actions concerning peace." Mass rallies were held throughout North Korea in February to show solidarity with Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 3 February 1986, p. D1.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 5 February 1986, p. D3.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 27 February 1986, p. D1.

Korean Affairs Report, JPRS-KAR-86-005, 30 January 1986, p. 143.

MALAYSIA

A recent issue of Malaysia's widely read Asian Defence Journal carries an article by Ramesh Thakur that conveys an implicit condemnation of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Thakur reviews the nuclear impasse presented by the doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD), then discusses a number of premises that impugn the logic of a space defense system. Among them, he cites the tentative nature of much SDI technology and notes that the Soviets could deploy an antimissile defense of their own and defeat the system at a fraction of the cost of erecting it. He also notes that the SDI is intended to protect land-based ballistic missiles while leaving population centers unguarded. Thakur mentions in passing the Kremlin's deployment of ground-based laser, and co-orbital antisatellite capabilities, but ignores the significance of such developments as harbingers of Moscow's efforts to develop a comprehensive space defense system of its own. Instead, he praises the Soviet return to the negotiating table in Geneva as an act of statesmanship in the face of US bellicosity. He reasons that, faced with the combination of "SDI + MX," the Soviets will not agree to a cut in their offensive (emphasis added) capability unless matched by a US willingness to decrease its own defensive (emphasis added) measures. This impasse, Thakur warns, will draw the two superpowers into the vortex of a renewed arms race. The author then discounts the possibility of a Soviet nuclear attack against the United States and notes Allied reluctance to give their support to the SDI. He ends anti-climatically by asserting that "Doubts about Star Wars are thus intense and widely shared," and that development of a defensive strategy has to be weighed against the risk of failure.

MALAYSIA

Thakur, Ramesh. "All That Twinkles is not Wonderful: Star Wars and Its Shaky Terrestrial Foundations." Asian Defence Journal (Kuala Lumpur), October 1985, p. 28.

MONGOLIA

The only reported Mongolian comment on SDI in February 1986 connected "Star Wars" with the tragic accident of the US space shuttle Challenger. According to the Montsame news agency report, the astronauts' deaths called attention to the fact that US space shuttles were being hastily developed, "mainly in the interests of the Pentagon." The accident was also seen as demonstrating the danger of blindly relying on computer technology, especially if this could cause a similar mistake related to the space armaments race. Montsame urged the Reagan Administration to heed warnings by US experts that setting up a space defense system and achieving "military superiority over socialist countries" was impossible.

MONGOLIA

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 5 February 1986, p. F1.

VIETNAM

A Quan Doi Nhan Dan (Hanoi) commentary reported that the Geneva spirit became distorted at a crucial point immediately after President Ronald Reagan returned to Washington, when he reported to the US Congress that the Soviet Union fully sympathized with the US Strategic Defense Initiative. Chronicling a number of events to support its contention that the US arms race has not reduced in momentum, the commentary concluded that the world was on the threshold of reduced tension but that the United States was still acting to increase the possibilities for confrontation. President Reagan's seemingly conciliatory tone, the editorial noted, is "the act of a movie star," and "his medal of peace still has another rough side."

In another commentary, a Nhan Dan (Hanoi) editorial reprinted in Vietnam Courier (Hanoi) stated that US "imperialists" were scheming to upset the strategic military balance by preparing for "Star Wars," and interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. It added that the Reagan administration was fooling no one with its peace rhetoric that failed to hide its aggressive intentions.

VIETNAM

Southeast Asia Report, JPRS-SEA-86-16, 23 January 1986, p. 141.

Vietnam Courier (Hanoi), September 1985, p. 14.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

April 1986

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) compiled herein are an update to those transmitted under the same title last month. Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 April 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Ronald Cima, Warren W. Darkow, Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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AUSTRALIA

In March, John Howard, leader of the conservative opposition Liberal Party, urged Prime Minister Robert Hawke to commit Australia to a participatory role in the US Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) prior to Hawke's US visit in April. Another Liberal Party spokesman also warned that the Labor government's negative response to the SDI research program would deny Australian industry's access to advanced American defense technology.

Although the Labor government's opposition to the space-defense system as a threat to arms control has been firmly voiced by Foreign Minister William Hayden and Defense Minister Kim Beazley, there still has been no formal refusal in response to the US invitation issued a year ago in March 1985. Australia's coolness toward the SDI reflects the power of the pro-disarmament, antinuclear left wing of the ruling Labor Party. As of early April, the Australian Government had postponed a final decision on its formal response to the SDI invitation until further review following visits by US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to Australia and Prime Minister Hawke to the United States later in the month.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 2 April 1986, pp. M1-M2.

CHINA

During March 1986 Chinese reporting included factual accounts of progress in SDI research, deliberations of US allies over participation in the program, and Soviet objections to it. A Ban Yue Tan (Beijing) article on General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's disarmament proposal opined that the Soviet leader's real purpose in putting forth a nuclear arms proposal was to provoke debate on SDI inside the United States, to encourage anti-nuclear peace movements in the United States and Europe, and to pose difficult questions for the Reagan administration in upcoming negotiations.

A Shijie Zhishi (Beijing) article on the world economy viewed SDI as a response to the need to develop new industries for lasers, fiber optics, microcomputers, and intelligent robots. This shift toward high technology was credited with causing a major readjustment in international economic relations, thereby encouraging other advanced industrial nations to participate in the SDI program to obtain information on the development of new technologies and industries. A late March speech by Premier Zhao Ziyang to a Beijing rally for world peace included a repetition of China's call for a ban on the development, testing, or deployment of space weapons and the negotiation of an international agreement for their complete prohibition.

CHINA

FBIS/China, 3 March 1986, p. B1.
FBIS/China, 4 March 1986, p. B1.
FBIS/China, 5 March 1986, p. A2.
FBIS/China, 5 March 1986, p. C1.
FBIS/China, 6 March 1986, p. D1.
FBIS/China, 7 March 1986, pp. C1-2.
FBIS/China, 10 March 1986, pp. A2-4.
FBIS/China, 11 March 1986, pp. A1-2.
FBIS/China, 12 March 1986, p. B2.
FBIS/China, 12 March 1986, p. C1.
FBIS/China, 12 March 1986, p. G1.
FBIS/China, 13 March 1986, pp. A1-8.
FBIS/China, 14 March 1986, p. G3.
FBIS/China, 20 March 1986, p. A2.
FBIS/China, 20 March 1986, p. H1.
FBIS/China, 21 March 1986, pp. A2-4.
FBIS/China, 24 March 1986, pp. A3-4.
FBIS/China, 24 March 1986, pp. B1-3.
FBIS/China, 24 March 1986, p. B3.
FBIS/China, 24 March 1986, p. B4.
FBIS/China, 25 March 1986, p. G4.
FBIS/China, 26 March 1986, p. C1.

INDONESIA

During this latest reporting period, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) slipped from prominence in the Indonesian media. No articles totally dedicated to the subject were apparent in the press, and reference to the SDI was confined to a passing mention in each of two wire-service stories from the inside pages of the left-of-center Indonesian Observer. One of these two articles carried an interview of CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and quoted the Soviet leader as saying that "in implementing (the SDI), Washington deliberately aims to thwart the current (arms) talks and erase all the existing arms control agreements." The second article carried an account of the 27th CPSU Congress and summarized remarks by Soviet Defense Minister Sergei L. Sokolov that the SDI constituted "a special threat" to which Moscow was determined to find "an effective response."

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 10 February 1986, p. 3.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 3 March 1986, p. 8.

JAPAN

The largest of three study missions to date left Tokyo on 29 March for discussions in Washington and at US research centers on participation in SDI research. The group included 9 Japanese Government officials and 46 representatives of some 21 Japanese high-tech and defense industry firms. The size and composition of the group seemed to indicate that the Japanese Government was following up its discussions with the private sector in January and was preparing to facilitate participation in the research by Japanese companies. The group's schedule allowed time for a report to Prime Minister Nakasone before his visit to Washington scheduled for mid-April.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger publicly stated that Japanese participation in the research program would not necessitate a formal government-to-government agreement like those between the United States and West Germany or Great Britain, or enactment of a controversial secrets protection law. The statement came on the heels of strict new MITI guidelines concerning exports of strategic materials to the USSR and other Communist nations.

According to Japanese press reports, the Japanese Government is close to announcing general guidelines for participation in SDI research including:

- free decision by private firms;
- further study of participation by government agencies;
- no secrets protection law; and
- preparation of a framework for research agreements between Japanese companies and the US Government.

As news of the planned study mission became public in Japan earlier this month, the Japan Scientists Association issued a statement opposing SDI research, saying that it would "distort the advance of science."

JAPAN

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 3 March 1986, Annex, pp. 2-3. (FOUO)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 17 March 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 18 March 1986, Annex, pp. 2-3. (FOUO)

Kyodo News Service, 18 March 1986. [NEXIS]

"SDI Study Mission to US to Report to PM on Return," Kyodo News Service, 19 March 1986. [NEXIS]

"Scientists Oppose 'Star Wars'," Associated Press, 22 March 1986, AM cycle. [NEXIS]

"Weinberger Again Invites Japan to Star Wars Program," Kyodo News Service, 26 March 1986. [NEXIS]

"SDI Mission Leaves for US," Kyodo News Service, 29 March 1986. [NEXIS]

KOREA (NORTH)

During March, no statements were attributed to North Korean leaders dealing specifically with the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). However, visiting Cuban President Fidel Castro said in Pyongyang that North Korea and Cuba were cooperating in their opposition to SDI. Castro declared, "Our two countries are pooling their strength in the struggle to prevent mankind from irrevocable disasters and ruins being caused by the maneuvers of the US Government to expand the arms race even to space by proceeding from an indiscreet wild ambition for gaining military superiority." Although North Korean President Kim Il-song also addressed the rally, he did not mention the SDI program. Kim, however, expressed his approval of Soviet proposals on nuclear issues and observed that Korean-Cuban relations would help to promote the international Communist movement.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 12 March 1986, pp. D2-10.

THAILAND

A recent article in the Bangkok Post argues that the US and USSR should look to space as an opportunity for cooperation rather than simply another place to do battle. Quoting Daniel Deudney, a fellow of the World Policy Institute, who wrote that "Deep-space pioneering - Star Trek instead of Star Wars - would involve the US and USSR in a long-term commitment to explore and colonize," the author of the Post article is exceedingly critical of the shortsightedness of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Using a sand castle analogy, he argues that building a better sand castle always entails a more brazen offense and asks, "how come after several eons of evolution, we persist in doing everything in the worst possible way?" Of the countless ways the human race could approach the challenge of outer space, he observes, it has chosen once again to favor its aggressive rather than cooperative instincts.

THAILAND

Bangkok Post, 15 December 1985, p. 5.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

May 1986

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 May 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Warren W. Darkow, Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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AUSTRALIA

During a news conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, in early April, visiting Australian Defense Minister Kim Beazley reasserted his government's firm opposition to any involvement in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Beazley stated that Australia's objections were based on questions about the feasibility of SDI and on its destabilizing impact on the strategic missile balance between the superpowers. Later, in mid-April, on the eve of the Australian visit of US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Beazley again ruled out any participation by Canberra in the SDI.

On 16 April, however, Australian ambivalence on the subject surfaced when Foreign Minister William Hayden remarked to visiting Japan Socialist Party Chairman Masashi Ishibashi that Canberra was studying the possibility of allowing private sector participation (i.e., companies and universities) in research on SDI projects. Despite this contradictory concession, Hayden reiterated the Hawke government's resolve not to become involved officially in the SDI program.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 April 1986, p. N2.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 10 April 1986, p. 1.

Times (London), 10 April 1986, p. 5.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 April 1986, p. M1.

CHINA

During April, Beijing's Xinhua news service reported East German and Soviet denunciation of the Federal Republic of Germany for its participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative. For its part, China made no statements on SDI except to list it as one of the issues in the US-USSR disarmament negotiations.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 12, 24 March 1986, pp. 14-15.

FBIS/China, 3 April 1986, p. A2.

FBIS/China, 10 April 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 14 April 1986, p. A3.

FBIS/China, 18 April 1986, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 21 April 1986, pp. B3-4.

FBIS/China, 22 April 1986, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 23 April 1986, pp. C2-3.

FBIS/China, 29 April 1986, pp. A3-6.

INDONESIA

During this latest reporting period, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was the subject of no more than passing commentary in the Indonesian media.

The left-of-center Indonesian Observer, in an inside op-ed cartoon, linked the SDI to the US development of space weapons and alleged intractability over arms-control issues. US intransigence in this respect was contrasted unfavorably with Soviet flexibility on such matters as a nuclear test ban and proper verification measures.

The moderate Indonesian Times carried two wire-service stories concerning the SDI in its inside pages. The first related that a US Senate study had concluded that there had been no scientific breakthroughs that would permit deployment of a space defense system in the 1990s, and that formidable technological obstacles must be overcome, before the system could become a reality. The second article noted briefly that West Germany and the United States had reached basic agreement for Bonn's participation in the SDI.

INDONESIA

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 21 March 1986, p. 2.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 1 April 1986, p. 7.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 12 April 1986, p. 3.

JAPAN

In Tokyo early in April, US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger urged Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to approve Japan's participation in SDI research, and praised Japan's "great technological genius" in a related address to the Japan National Press Club.

Early in April, Japan Defense Agency (JDA) director general Koichi Kato announced that the JDA had made a secret study of strategic and military aspects of the Strategic Defense Initiative and intended formally to present its views to the heads of appropriate ministries and to the Prime Minister after his return from the United States later in the month. Kato reportedly believes that Japan should consider the impact of SDI on the balance of nuclear forces between the United States and the Soviet Union before deciding whether to participate.

On 23 April, Japan's third SDI study team, which visited US Government and private-sector research centers from 31 March to 8 April, recommended that Japan participate in SDI research. The team's preliminary report, which was delivered to appropriate cabinet ministers, stated that participation would benefit the development of high technology in Japan.

Following the return of Japan's joint government-private sector SDI study team from the United States on 8 April, Federation of Japanese Industries (Keidanren) chairman Yoshihiro Inayama told reporters that he believed Japan should participate in SDI research.

Japanese scientists opposed to Japan's participation in SDI research continue to sign statements and give press interviews. Reportedly some 2000 physicists and 700 mathematicians and computer specialists have signed such statements. As in earlier months, comments critical of SDI have chiefly come from scientists engaged in university teaching and research.

JAPAN

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 4 April 1986, p. 6. [FOUO]

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 7 April 1986, p. C2.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 23 April 1986, p. C1.

"Japan Expected to Join Star Wars Programme Soon," Reuters North European Service, AM Cycle, 14 April 1986. [NEXIS]

"Anti-SDI Campaign by Scientists Gearing up in Japan," Kyodo News Service, 28 April 1986. [NEXIS]

KOREA (NORTH)

The North Korean Government continues to express concern with the Strategic Defense Initiative, but the US space-defense system is not viewed with the same seriousness as the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea. Statements about the latter are included in practically all speeches by North Korean leaders that touch on nuclear issues; in contrast, SDI is occasionally mentioned, but rarely emphasized. During the reporting period, North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam addressed a meeting of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in New Delhi. Kim devoted just one sentence of his speech to SDI, saying that extending the arms race to outer space would increase the danger of nuclear war. He then urged member nations of NAM to ban together to oppose US nuclear policies, and he called on NAM to support Pyongyang's efforts to force the US to withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea and establish a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia. In the meantime, North Korea continued to express support for almost all of the Soviet Union's policies on nuclear issues.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 16 April 1986, p. D1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 22 April 1986, pp. D2-7.

KOREA (SOUTH)

According to US Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, South Korean participation in SDI was not one of the issues discussed at the 18th US-Korea Security Consultative Meeting held in Seoul from 1-3 April. However, the joint communique signed at the conclusion of the meeting indicated ROK interest in promoting cooperation between Korean and US defense industries and mentioned an agreement to establish a Korean-US Defense Industry Cooperation Association. This agreement is significant because it shows that South Korea is eager to participate in joint ventures with US companies. Such undertakings are likely to include the research and production of weapons, and they will facilitate SDI-related projects should the South Korean Government decide to participate in the US space-defense system. Given ROK interest in boosting defense production and inducing new technologies into the country, therefore, it appears likely that the Chun Doo Hwan Government will agree to participate in SDI in the near future.

KOREA (SOUTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 4 April 1986, pp. E1-4.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

June 1986

Project Manager: Rodney P. Katz

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 June 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Rodney P. Katz, William Shaw, and Roxane Sismanidis.

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AUSTRALIA

There appears to have been no change in the Government's opposition to Australian participation in SDI-related research following visits to the US by Prime Minister Robert Hawke (15-18 April) and Defense Minister Kim Beazley (4-6 May). The Bulletin (Sydney), a conservative weekly, criticized the Prime Minister after he returned from the US for promoting policies which the paper maintains have weakened the country's defense posture. The decision to prohibit SDI-related research is mentioned as one of many issues which have hurt US-Australian relations in recent years. Although both the Hawke and Beazley visits were mentioned in the May 1st issue of Australia News, a weekly publication prepared by the Australian Embassy here in Washington, there was no coverage of the defense issues that were discussed by Hawke and Reagan, or scheduled to be discussed by Beazley and Weinberger.

AUSTRALIA

Bulletin (Sydney), 6 May 1986, pp. 50-51.

CHINA

During May Chinese media reports about SDI ranged from analysis of SDI's role in arms control talks to the standard expressions of opposition to the arms race in outer space. China's Ambassador for Disarmament Fan Guoxiang, speaking at a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission on 6 May, reiterated China's current foreign policy line in calling for an international agreement banning space-based weapons. An article published in the 5 May issue of Liaowang predicted that Soviet efforts to stop SDI would not succeed. Another article in the same issue of Liaowang stated that SDI would allow the United States to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union, but expressed skepticism that such superiority is the only objective. The article argued that the United States should not use SDI, once deployed, to "regain world hegemony."

In a February 1986 essay, Hangkong Zhishi examined not only the way in which SDI would work, but also US motives in developing SDI, the reasons behind Soviet opposition to SDI, and the likelihood that SDI will be successfully realized. According to the article, the US-Soviet struggle for military superiority in space was carried out in secret before SDI was announced. Although the United States always seemed to be ahead, in fact, the military struggle in space has been a toss-up, with the Soviet Union now holding advantages in manned space flight, antisatellite weapons, and deployed antimissile systems. The probability that SDI can destroy all attacking warheads and space vehicles is very small, but the probability that SDI will be partially successful is quite large. In the future, both the United States and Soviet Union will continue to seek dominance in space and will continue to deploy new weapons systems, including kinetic energy, laser, particle beam, and even nuclear weapons.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 16, 21 April 1986, pp. 14-15.

China Report: Science and Technology, JPRS-CST-86-012, 8 April 1986, pp. 1-5.

China Report: Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-86-028, 10 April 1986, pp. 1-14.

FBIS/China, 7 May 1986, pp. A5-6.

FBIS/China, 8 May 1986, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 9 May 1986, pp. A2-5, B2-5.

FBIS/China, 12 May 1986, pp. C1-3.

FBIS/China, 28 May 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 2 June 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 3 June 1986, p. H2.

FBIS/China, 5 June 1986, pp. B1-2.

JAPAN

In May the Japanese Government continued its study of Japan's possible participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program. Key cabinet ministers met on 13 May to discuss the report submitted in late April by a joint government-industry study delegation that visited the United States from 31 March to 8 April. In summary form, the report drew attention to the potential benefits that participation in the space defense system would have for the development of non-SDI technologies. A more detailed and technical report was said to be in preparation.

JAPAN

"Mission Recommends Japan Participate in SDI Research," Kyodo News Service, 2 May 1986. [NEXIS]

"Japan Remains Undecided on its Participation in SDI," Xinhua Overseas News Service, 13 May 1986. [NEXIS]

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

July 1986

Project Manager: Rodney P. Katz

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 July 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, William Shaw, and Roxane Sismanidis.

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CHINA

Events relating to US-Soviet arms control negotiations and the SALT II accord overshadowed Chinese commentary on SDI during June 1986. Chinese media provided coverage of US and Soviet proposals and counterproposals at the Geneva arms-control negotiations. During the first half of June, Soviet proposals were portrayed in Chinese media as part of a "peace offensive" designed to show Soviet "flexibility" while pressuring the United States to abandon SDI, a view similar to that expressed by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The focus then shifted to the 11 June Soviet proposal for a 30 percent strategic arms cut in exchange for a US-Soviet agreement on non-withdrawal from the ABM Treaty for 15 years and for limiting SDI research to laboratory testing, as well as the rather positive US reaction to this proposal. At the end of June, Xinhua and Renmin Ribao analyses of the 5th round of US-Soviet arms-control negotiations in Geneva stated that no progress had occurred in the talks but took note of the "new postures" adopted by the two sides on SDI and other arms-control issues.

In addition, Chinese press accounts reported on a variety of SDI-related topics, including Hu Yaobang's comments on SDI in the Federal Republic of Germany, the condemnation of SDI and space militarization at the 5th European Disarmament convention, and SDI contracts awarded to the United Kingdom. On 9 June, Beijing Review reported that during a peace symposium held in Shanghai in May, participants voiced a number of divergent views on SDI. Finally, the independent Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pao reported on 13 June that the Intelligence Research Institute of China's National Defense Science, Technology, and Industry Commission had undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of the feasibility of SDI and its potential impact on global strategic principles.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 23, 9 June 1986, pp. 14-16.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 25, 23 June 1986, p. 10.

FBIS/China, 10 June 1986, p. G11.

FBIS/China, 16 June 1986, pp. G9-11, W1-2.

FBIS/China, 17 June 1986, pp. A1-2, C1-2.

FBIS/China, 19 June 1986, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 24 June 1986, pp. C1-2.

FBIS/China, 25 June 1986, pp. A1-7.

FBIS/China, 26 June 1986, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 27 June 1986, p. A2.

FBIS/China, 30 June 1986, p. G4.

FBIS/China, 1 July 1986, pp. A4-5.

FBIS/China, 3 July 1986, pp. A2-3.

Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 22 May 1986, p. 12.

Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 19 June 1986, pp. 11-12.

INDONESIA

During the month of May, one cartoon and two articles on "star wars" were noted in the left-of-center Indonesian Observer, a newspaper which has kept up muted but steady criticism of SDI in recent months. The cartoon applauds the opposition of thousands of American scientists to the development of SDI, suggests that any attempt to build a defense against incoming missiles is futile, and claims that SDI will only accelerate the present arms race.

The other two articles in the Observer were simply wire service stories, both taken from Associated Press. One article reported that the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency had advised Congress that Washington would consult with its allies and would negotiate with the Soviet Union before deploying any new space defense system. The other article indicated that Washington and Tel Aviv were near agreement on Israeli participation in SDI research.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 7 May 1986, p. 2.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 19 May 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian observer (Jakarta), 21 May 1986, p. 8.

JAPAN

Kyodo news service reported on 27 June that Japan Socialist Party Chairman Masashi Ishibashi has renewed his call for Japan's nonparticipation in SDI-related research. Ishibashi is the only prominent Japanese leader who is known to have addressed the issue during the recent parliamentary election campaign.

On 3 July the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that petitions opposing SDI were being circulated on at least 23 Japanese university campuses. The petition movement was initiated by students of atomic physics at schools in Hiroshima and Nagoya. Xinhua noted that, despite the petition drive and the indecision of Japanese government officials, Japan will probably decide to participate in the SDI program.

JAPAN

"Ishibashi Proposes East Asian Peace Conference," Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 27 June 1986 [NEXIS].

"Japanese Students Start Anti-SDI Signature Movement," Xinhua General Overseas News Service (Beijing), 3 July 1986 [NEXIS].

KOREA (NORTH)

On 27 June, Pyongyang Domestic Service reported that the United States was using SDI to develop offensive space-based weapons as part of a "plan" to launch a preemptive attack against socialist countries. Although the defensive capabilities of SDI were also described in the broadcast, the message was clearly intended to influence the North Korean people to believe that Washington was striving for military superiority so that the United States could use space-based and land-based weapons against North Korea and other countries.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 19 June 1986, pp. D4-5.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

August 1986

Project Manager: Rodney P. Katz

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 July 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Ronald Cima, Rodney Katz, William Shaw and Roxane Sismanidis.

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CHINA

In July, Chinese commentary on SDI followed the analysis articulated in the previous month and emphasized developments in US-Soviet arms control negotiations. Despite "Soviet concessions" on SDI and the "unexpected positive" US response to General Secretary Gorbachev's 11 June letter to President Reagan, Chinese analysts reported that the arms control talks remain stalemated. An article published in the 1 July issue of Shijie Zhishi suggested that SDI would probably enable the United States to achieve an advantage over the Soviet Union in the nuclear arms race at some point in the future.

In addition to the US-Soviet negotiations, Chinese commentary and reportage covered the Japanese decision to permit private participation in SDI research, official Chinese statements on concluding agreements preventing an arms race in outer space made at the Geneva Disarmament Commission, and the role of SDI in the US "flexible response" strategy and in US-Soviet rivalry in Western Europe.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 28, 14 July 1986, p. 8.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 29, 21 July 1986, p. 10.

China Daily (Beijing), 4 July 1986, p. 4.

China Daily (Beijing), 26 July 1986, p. 1.

FBIS/China, 7 July 1986, pp. A1-9.

FBIS/China, 8 July 1986, p. C3.

FBIS/China, 15 July 1986, pp. A1-2, B2.

FBIS/China, 22 July 1986, pp. B1, D3.

FBIS/China, 23 July 1986, P. A2.

FBIS/China, 25 July 1986, pp. B1-5.

JAPAN

On 18 July the heads of six key cabinet ministries met for the third time to outline plans for Japanese participation in the SDI research program. The working group, which met on the eve of formation of a new cabinet, reportedly deferred a formal decision until September or October. The guidelines for Japan's participation appear to include the following points: research on the program will be conducted by private companies; government agencies can take part in the program, but government funds are not to be used; and new espionage legislation is not considered to be necessary to protect military technology secrets associated with SDI.

In addition to student opposition to SDI reported in the July issue of this publication, 1,600 researchers who work at Tsukuba, Japan's "Science City" near Tokyo, have signed another anti-SDI petition. According to a report which appeared in the Japan Times on 5 July, the researchers view SDI as a disguised program for arms expansion.

JAPAN

"NLC's Kono Against Japan's Participation in SDI," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 2 July 1986 [NEXIS].

"Japan Seeks Government-Industry Role in 'Star Wars'," United Press International, 17 July 1986 [NEXIS].

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 18 July 1986, p. C2.

Computerword International World News Service, 28 July 1986 [NEXIS].

KOREA (NORTH)

A 1 August Korean Central News Agency broadcast criticized the US for inviting South Korea to participate in SDI-related research and claimed that a satellite communications facility in Taegu, South Korea--the North Koreans call it an electronic observation center--will eventually be used for the command and control of a US spaced-based weapons system. The international conference on SDI held at Kyungnam University in South Korea from 29-31 July was also criticized in the report.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 5 August 1986, p. D3.

KOREA (SOUTH)

A three-day conference on SDI was held at South Korea's Kyungnam University from 29-31 July. The reasons for South Korea's cautiousness about participating in SDI-related research were addressed by Park Yong-ok, a professor at South Korea's National Defense College and an influential writer on defense matters. Professor Park said that the types of technologies being examined for SDI are too advanced to require serious attention in South Korea and most other Asian nations. Park believes that if South Korea and Japan participate in SDI, this action could destabilize the security of Northeast Asia because of the inevitable political and military reactions by the Soviet Union and North Korea. Other speakers to the conference included Edward Rowny, special advisor to US President Ronald Reagan on arms control matters, and academicians from Japan and Taiwan.

KOREA (SOUTH)

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 30 July 1986, p. E1.

Korea Herald (Seoul), 31 July 1986, p. E1.

VIETNAM

In recent months the Vietnamese have claimed that the United States is using SDI to regain military superiority over the Soviet Union. A 9 April article in Quan Doi Nhan Dan, the Vietnamese Army newspaper, attacked SDI as a move by the US to strengthen its first-strike nuclear strategy. The article went on to claim that the US is the only UN member opposed to a General Assembly resolution which proposes banning the militarization of outer space. A 12 May broadcast by the Vietnam News Agency reported on a speech delivered by the acting head of Vietnam's permanent mission to the United Nations, Bui Xuan Nhat, to the UN's Commission for Disarmament. In his speech Bui criticized SDI, stated that curbing the arms race in outer space should be a priority for the Commission, and expressed support for Soviet proposals on nuclear arms control.

VIETNAM

Southeast Asia Report, JPRS-SEA-86-074, 29 April 1986, p. 38.

Southeast Asia Report, JPRS-SEA-86-098, 11 June 1986, p. 66.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

September 1986

Project Manager: Rodney P. Katz

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 September 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Russell R. Ross, William Shaw, and Roxane Sismanidis.

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CHINA

In August, the Chinese media reported developments in US-Soviet arms control negotiations relevant to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), tracked the course of SDI funding in the US Congress, and reiterated China's call at the Geneva Disarmament Conference for "new international legal instruments" to prevent an arms race in outer space. Commentary on the Soviet Union's nuclear test moratorium stressed that the real reason behind the Soviet proposal for halting nuclear weapons testing was to "wreck" US SDI research.

The Chinese media also discussed what relationship, if any, existed between the West European technology development program known as Eureka and the SDI. A 6 August Renmin Ribao article questioned whether Eureka would remain independent or become an integral part of the US space defense program. Additionally, Renmin Ribao reported that West European countries, particularly West Germany, were upset about a bill in the US Congress which would discriminate against European companies interested in participating in SDI. The article supported West German complaints and said that the United States initially offered equal partnership to its allies. It was claimed that the Eureka project evolved because the West Europeans did not trust Washington to include them as equal partners in the Strategic Defense Initiative.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 32, 11 August 1986, pp. 12-13.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 35, 1 September 1986, p. 13.

China Daily (Beijing), 7 August 1986, p. 8.

China Daily (Beijing), 8 August 1986, p. 8.

China Daily (Beijing), 14 August 1986, p. 8.

FBIS/China, 8 August 1986, pp. A1-3.

FBIS/China, 12 August 1986, pp. A1-2, G1-2.

FBIS/China, 14 August 1986, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 21 August 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 22 August 1986, pp. A1, G4-5.

FBIS/China, 25 August 1986, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 4 August 1986, pp. A3-4.

INDONESIA

The left-of-center Indonesia Observer discussed the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) four times during July and August in a regularly featured cartoon on political issues. Although an attempt was made by the cartoonist to appear even-handed, the commentary was clearly critical of the SDI. It was claimed that "Star Wars" would accelerate both the arms race and the militarization of outer space. Soviet accusations that the US wanted to limit nuclear disarmament talks to unconventional weapons and continue nuclear testing in order to promote SDI were repeated by the Observer.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jarkarta), 18 July 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jarkarta), 19 July 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jarkarta), 23 July 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jarkarta), 11 August 1986, p. 1.

JAPAN

On 9 September the Japanese Cabinet approved participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program. The decision marked the end of about 18 months of public debate and discussion within the Japanese Government following a March 1985 request by Washington for Tokyo's participation in the US space defense program. The Japanese Government soon will begin negotiating the details of its cooperation with the United States, but Foreign Ministry sources already have stated that local firms are free to participate on their own, even in the absence of an agreement with Washington. In practice, however, Japanese companies are likely to wait for a framework endorsed by the government before proceeding.

In a statement following the decision, a cabinet official told reporters that the research is intended to reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons and so does not conflict with a 1969 Diet resolution calling for the peaceful use of space. In somewhat different reasoning before a Diet committee, Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari stated that the Diet resolution does not apply because the space-based antimissile program is being developed by the United States, not Japan.

In a negative reaction to the announcement, two opposition parties stated that the decision represented a "commitment to US nuclear strategy." An anti-nuclear group linked with the Japan Socialist Party also demanded that the government retract the decision and criticized Japan's participation as a violation of the three nonnuclear principles--not to make, keep, or use nuclear weapons.

Government spokesmen address one objection made by opponents of the program by stating that the government would not seek new legislation to protect classified technology used or developed in the program, but would leave the matter to existing laws and the Japan-US Mutual Security Treaty. A proposal for an anti-espionage law received severe criticism earlier in the year.

JAPAN

"Japan to Participate in U.S. SDI Research." Central News Agency (Taipei), 9 September 1986. [NEXIS]

"Joining SDI Does Not Breach Diet Resolution, Kuranari Says." Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 9 September 1986. [NEXIS]

"Antinuke Group Denounces Japan's SDI Participation." Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 9 September 1986. [NEXIS]

"Japan, U.S. to Start SDI Talks." Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 9 September 1986. [NEXIS]

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

October 1986

Project Manager: Rodney P. Katz

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 13 October 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Russell R. Ross, William Shaw and Roxane Sismanidis.

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CHINA

In September the Chinese media reported on the US ASAT test, President Reagan's speech to the United Nations General Assembly, and the Japanese and Italian decisions to join in SDI research. Chinese reportage on the Japanese SDI decision did not directly criticize Tokyo, but quoted the Soviet newspaper Izvestiya and Japanese opposition parties as saying that the decision violated the Japanese Diet resolution on the peaceful use of outer space. A Xinhua news analysis took a different tack with the Italian-US Government agreement on SDI, citing Soviet criticism of Italy as proof of Moscow's concern over its failure to keep US allies from cooperating with the United States on its space defense program.

Other Chinese commentary on the SDI concentrated on US and Soviet contention over SDI in US-Soviet arms control negotiations and US and Soviet efforts to develop space weapons. A column in the pro-Beijing Hong Kong paper Hsin Wan-Pao called the US offer to sign an agreement with the Soviet Union to delay SDI deployment by 5 to 7 years a "gimmick." Other commentaries noted that both the United States and the Soviet Union were developing strategic space defense systems, but stressed that while Soviet arms control proposals aim to slow down US SDI development, Soviet Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) research has intensified.

Chinese analyses also suggested that there was varying concern about the possible effects of BMD development and deployment on nuclear deterrence. A Beijing Review article suggested that nuclear deterrence would remain effective for a long time because neither the United States nor the Soviet Union would be able to deploy a BMD system by the end of the 20th century. But an article in Xiandai Guoji Guanxi [Modern International Relations] (Beijing) opined that SDI had deepened Western European mistrust of US nuclear protection of Europe because West Europeans feared that the SDI would destroy nuclear deterrence, the basis for NATO security.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's annual UN General Assembly speech, which always has contained a section dealing with China's position on disarmament, this year downplayed Chinese criticism of "the arms race in outer space." In contrast to last year's speech, in which space issues comprised one of the four points in China's disarmament proposal, Wu limited himself to a perfunctory condemnation of extending the arms race into outer space and reiterated that Beijing was in favor of using this region exclusively for peaceful purposes.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 37, 15 September 1986, pp. 14-15.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 38, 22 September 1986, pp. 13-14.

China Daily (Beijing), 10 September 1986, p. 8.

China Daily (Beijing), 12 September 1986, p. 8.

China Daily (Beijing), 13 September 1986, p. 1.

China Daily (Beijing), 19 September 1986, p. 8.

China Report: Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs, JPRS-CPS-86-070, 4 September 1986, pp. 1-10.

FBIS/China, 11 September 1986, p. D1.

FBIS/China, 12 September 1986, p. D1.

FBIS/China, 19 September 1986, pp. A3-6.

FBIS/China, 22 September 1986, pp. A4-5.

FBIS/China, 24 September 1986, pp. A2-6.

FBIS/China, 25 September 1986, pp. A3-5.

FBIS/China, 01 October 1986, pp. A7-12.

INDONESIA

During the latest reporting period, the most salient news on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) to appear in the Indonesian press concerned Japan's impending participation in the US-sponsored space defense program. Two of Jakarta's English-language dailies gave prominent coverage to the event by reprinting wire service stories in the op-ed or front pages.

The left-of-center Indonesian Observer, displaying once again its pro-Soviet bias, labelled Tokyo's decision an "outright breach to opposing the deployment of weapons in space." The Observer also noted critically that by participating in the SDI, Japan would help "to accelerate the arms race about to begin." The newspaper concluded that Tokyo could not reject "American pressure" and had joined the United States in disregarding "the people's hopes for peace."

The moderate Indonesia Times, for its part, reprinted in its inside pages an additional wire service story reporting the vast potential for profits that could be realized by defense contractors engaging in SDI research.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 10 September 1986, p. 1.

JAPAN

Opposition parties voiced criticism of the government's decision of 9 September to permit Japanese companies to participate in SDI research. Spokesmen for the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the Komeito Party, and the Japan Communist Party (JCP) reiterated earlier concerns that such participation would violate a 1969 Diet resolution banning military uses of space and violate the no-war clause in article 9 of the Constitution.

Statements by government spokesmen on 30 September repeated earlier assurances that Japanese participation would be approved on a case-by-case basis, would strengthen the Japan-US security relationship, and would not involve government funds.

The Soviet Union's negative reaction to Japan's decision to participate in SDI research was tempered in a statement by visiting Soviet Vice Premier Guriy Marchuk in Tokyo on 12 September. Marchuk warned that Japanese cooperation with the US research program would have a negative effect on Japan-Soviet relations, repeating a similar warning given the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow the day before. However, the Soviet Union clearly remained interested in scientific and technological cooperation with Japan, and Marchuk stated that he welcomed the resumption of bilateral talks on that subject scheduled for mid-September.

Later in the month, unnamed Japanese officials were quoted as saying that participation in SDI research would strengthen Japan's position vis-a-vis the Soviets by earning greater Soviet respect.

Reacting on 13 October to the breakdown of the superpower summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone expressed disappointment that the SDI issue had been a stumbling block, but continued to defend his decision to allow Japanese participation by saying that the US space defense program was aimed at total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In developments in the private sector, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., reportedly was asked by Raytheon Co. to take part in joint research on a short-range missile deterrent system. Mitsubishi officials stated that the company would make a decision after the conclusion of a detailed formal agreement governing procedures for Japanese participation in SDI research.

JAPAN

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 10 September 1986, p. C4.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 12 September 1986, pp. C2-3.

FBIS/Asia & Pacific, 23 September 1986, Annex, pp. 2-3 (FOUO).

"Japan, Italy Set Participation." Facts on File World News Digest,
26 September 1986. [Nexis]

"Mitsubishi Invited to participate in SDI Research." Kyodo News Service,
29 September, 1986. [Nexis]

"Participation in SDI Research Not Violation: Government." Kyodo News
Service, 30 September, 1986. [Nexis]

"Nakasone Regrets Summit Failure." Kyodo News Service, 13 October 1986.
[Nexis]

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

November 1986

Project Manager: Ronald E. Dolan

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 6 November 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Beth Green, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, William Shaw and Roxane Sismanidis.

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AUSTRALIA

Following the Reykjavik summit meeting between US President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, Australia's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister each spoke publicly in opposition to US positions on SDI. Commenting on the summit meeting in a report to the Australian Parliament on 14 October, Prime Minister Robert Hawke said that he respects the US position on SDI but does not endorse it. Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden, after attending a 15 October briefing on the summit by Kenneth Adelman, Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, suggested that the United States could have accepted modified versions of Soviet proposals on SDI. Hayden also said that if the United States and the Soviet Union could reach agreements on eliminating offensive nuclear weapons, then there would be no need for SDI. Finally, Australian Defense Minister Kim Beazley told reporters on 20 October that he believed the United States could eventually abandon the SDI program.

Andrew Peacock, the spokesman on foreign affairs for the Liberal Party, disagreed with the Australian Government's SDI policy. He argued that as a result of the Reykjavik summit, the United States and the Soviet Union were farther apart than ever on nuclear issues. Peacock called for Australian participation in SDI as a sign of its commitment to the Western alliance.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 14 October 1986, p. M1.

FBIS/ASIA and Pacific, 15 October 1986, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 16 October 1986, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 21 October 1986, p. M1.

CHINA

In October, Chinese commentary on SDI centered around the 11-12 October Reykjavik summit between US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Chinese analysts characterized US-Soviet relations as "simultaneous confrontation and dialogue" and placed the summit and US-Soviet contention over SDI within this context both before and after the summit.

Officially, Chinese spokesmen welcomed the Reykjavik meeting and expressed the hope that the United States and the Soviet Union would negotiate in good faith and reach agreements involving drastic arms reductions without compromising the interests of any other country. China voiced its concern with the threat to Asian security posed by Soviet SS-20s, stating that missiles deployed by the United States and the Soviet Union in Asia should be reduced simultaneously and in balance (with those in Europe) or be destroyed. SDI was not specifically mentioned in this context.

Chinese media commentary, however, stressed several themes suggesting that Beijing did not expect much to result from the summit. Analysts noted that the Iceland meeting was a hastily arranged working meeting in which both sides wanted to feel each other out. A Xinhua commentary opined that because the United States and the Soviet Union differed sharply on space arms control and how to reduce strategic arsenals, there was little likelihood of an arms control breakthrough. However, there might be some compromises over minor arms control points, because both sides want to see the relaxation of current strained relations.

After the Reykjavik summit, Chinese officials "took note" of the fact that an agreement was not reached at the summit and did not officially apportion blame for the outcome of the talks. Spokesmen hoped that the United States and the Soviet Union would continue their dialogue, noting that "dialogue is preferable to confrontation." Chinese Communist Party Secretariat member Hu Qili also expressed these views, adding that the talks should be conducted in earnest and that damage should not be done to the interests of other countries. Hu also reiterated China's opposition to SDI, but refused to support the Soviet stance, stating that the Soviet Union and China have their own views.

Chinese media commentary took a somewhat more pessimistic look at the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting, characterizing it as a failure. Reportage presented both US and Soviet views of what was proposed, what happened, and who was to blame for the lack of an agreement. Analyses ascribed the breakdown of the talks to differences over SDI, but also suggested that an agreement was not reached because the meeting was hastily arranged, and because both leaders went to Reykjavik with domestic political purposes in mind. However, Beijing does not see the lack of an agreement as leading to the worsening of US-Soviet relations. Although commentators do not expect a major agreement soon, they predict that the US-Soviet dialogue will resume, and that the two leaders will meet again.

More explicit discussions of the role of SDI in the Reykjavik negotiations appeared in the pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao (Hong Kong). One analyst suggested that the United States wishes to exclude SDI from any arms limitation agreement, freeing its hand to reduce missiles in Western Europe and leaving US West European allies no choice but to support SDI, thereby quickening its realization. The analyst further opined that US allies fear that the United States may neglect West European security to protect its own interests, causing the West Europeans to develop strategic arms of their own in order to maintain the balance of power in Europe. Another Ta Kung Pao assessment cited Soviet Chief of General Staff Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev's view that the real threat from SDI comes more from the spillovers from SDI research that might create technological breakthroughs in conventional and strategic weaponry than from the creation of an effective defense shield. This assessment also noted that all major concessions at the Iceland meeting appeared to come from the Soviet side and that, given President Reagan's adamant position on SDI, General Secretary Gorbachev has no alternative but to make more concessions or wait for a more flexible US President.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 40, 6 October 1986, pp. 11-12, 14-18.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 42, 20 October 1986, p. 10.

China Daily, (Beijing), 2 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 8 October 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 9 October 1986, pp. 1, 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 10 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 11 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 13 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 14 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 15 October 1986, pp. 1, 4.

China Daily, (Beijing), 16 October 1986, pp. 1, 4.

China Daily, (Beijing), 17 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 18 October 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 21 October 1986, p. 1.

China Daily, (Beijing), 22 October 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 30 October 1986, p. 1.

FBIS/China, 1 October 1986, pp. A7-12.

FBIS/China, 2 October 1986, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 6 October 1986, pp. A6-11.

FBIS/China, 7 October 1986, pp. A1-2, C1-2.

FBIS/China, 8 October 1986, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 9 October 1986, pp. A1-3, C1.

FBIS/China, 10 October 1986, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 14 October 1986, pp. A1-8.

FBIS/China, 15 October 1986, pp. A1-5.

FBIS/China, 16 October 1986, pp. A1-5.

FBIS/China, 17 October 1986, Annex pp. 2-4, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 20 October 1986, pp. A1-4.

FBIS/China, 22 October 1986, pp. A4-7, W1-2.

FBIS/China, 24 October 1986, pp. W1-2.

FBIS/China, 30 October 1986, pp. A3-6.

FBIS/China, 31 October 1986, pp. A3-4.

FBIS/USSR, 20 October 1986, p. B1.

Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 16-22 October 1986, p. 12.

INDONESIA

During the reporting period, Indonesian reactions to SDI took second place to overall commentary on the Reykjavik Summit. The moderate Indonesia Times (Jakarta) noted that the meeting between the two superpower chiefs of state ended in disappointment when US President Ronald Reagan declined to limit SDI development to laboratory research in the face of Soviet insistence. The Times, however, gave balanced treatment to both sides as they defended their respective positions. Receiving equal prominence were Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's assertion that the Kremlin had offered "very serious, unprecedented concessions, and accepted compromises that are unprecedented" and National Security Advisor Vice Admiral John Poindexter's charge that the Soviets, with their demands to discuss nothing but SDI, held "hostage" progress in other areas of arms control.

The left-of-center Indonesian Observer (Jakarta) again demonstrated a pro-Moscow bias in its summation of the Reykjavik meeting. The daily juxtaposed the Gorbachev proposal of "mutual and historic reduction in nuclear weapons" and Soviet willingness to compromise, with the apparent intransigence of President Reagan regarding the testing of SDI outside the laboratory. The Observer commentary noted that as a result of the latest summit in Iceland, the US space defense system remained intact, and that this lack of headway in negotiations now invited "escalated technology competition from the Soviets in a more sophisticated arms race--militarization of space."

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 14 October 1986, p. 1

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 14 October 1986, p. 1.

JAPAN

Official Japanese reaction to the Reykjavik arms reduction talks between the United States and the Soviet Union remained positive despite the breakdown of the talks over the US SDI program. Prime Minister Nakasone said that the meeting had given arms reduction "a major push," and other Japanese officials noted that the Soviet Union wanted the "impossible" with respect to SDI. The effect of the Reykjavik meeting on Diet reaction to the still-controversial Japanese plan to participate in SDI research was uncertain, but Japanese officials stated that they planned to emphasize that it was the SDI program that brought the Soviets to the negotiations in the first place. Japanese interest in arms reduction continues to center on the question of intermediate nuclear forces (INF) under the influence of Asian-based Soviet SS-20 missiles.

Working talks between Japan and the United States continued in late October as a team of Japanese officials from relevant ministries met with SDI program officials in Washington. The Japanese press noted that Japan would press for the right of participating companies to commercialize their technological discoveries and would continue to oppose new laws to protect US classified information.

JAPAN

"Japanese Eye Liberal Access to Star Wars Research Results," Reuters North European Service (London), 23 October 1986. [NEXIS]

"Japanese Give Thumbs Up to US Position at Reykjavik Meeting," Christian Science Monitor (Boston), 16 October 1986. [NEXIS]

"SDI Mission to Visit U.S. From Sunday," Jiji Press Ticker Service (Tokyo), 22 October 1986. [NEXIS]

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Nodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Korean Workers' Party, published an editorial on 15 October which accused the United States of using SDI to undermine the recent summit meeting between US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland. The commentary claimed that the talks moved smoothly, with the two leaders agreeing on a number of issues, but finally collapsed because President Reagan refused to compromise on SDI. The editorial demanded that the United States abandon SDI and show sincerity in US-USSR negotiations on nuclear arms.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 15 October 1986, pp. D1-3.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Korea Herald (Seoul) reported on 26 October that during National Assembly discussions held the previous day, Prime Minister Lho Shin-yong announced that the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) is considering whether to allow Korean companies to participate in SDI-related research. Lho commented that a task force will be established in the near future to study the timing and conditions for South Korean participation in SDI. This marks the first time that a government official has publicly acknowledged South Korean interest in the program. Lho's remarks are an indication that a decision may have been reached at the highest level of the government to encourage US-ROK cooperation on SDI. It is unlikely that Lho would have made his statement on SDI without the approval of President Chun Doo Hwan. For the past several years, the South Korean Government has encouraged Korean companies to form joint ventures with foreign companies to promote domestic research and development in electronics and other fields. South Korean officials also may have been influenced by the 9 September decision of Japan's Government to allow Japanese companies to contribute to SDI. South Korea is striving to become more competitive with Japan for US business in researching and developing new technologies.

In addition to the Korea Herald report on Prime Minister Lho's statement, three other newspaper articles commented on SDI. An item published in the 23 September issue of Chungang Ilbo (Seoul) criticized SDI as impractical, and called on the United States to reconcile its differences with the Soviet Union, presumably on SDI and nuclear arms. An article appearing that same day in Tonga Ilbo (Seoul) applauded US President Ronald Reagan's offer to delay testing of SDI-related systems for 7 years in response to Soviet demands for a 10 year postponement of such tests. The influential South Korean daily expressed the hope that this concession would remove a stumbling block in US-Soviet negotiations on strategic weapons. Finally, an editorial on the October summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland, argued that the Soviets have no right to complain about SDI until they show a willingness to reach agreements to dismantle their long- and medium-range systems armed with nuclear warheads. The article specifically mentions SS-20 missiles deployed in the Soviet Far East.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Chungang Ilbo, (Seoul), 23 September 1986 in Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul) 24 September 1986, p. 4.

Tonga Ilbo, (Seoul), 23 September 1986 in Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul) 24 September 1986, pp. 2-3.

Korea Herald, (Seoul), 15 October 1986, p. 2.

Korea Herald (Seoul), 26 October 1986, pp. 1, 6.

MONGOLIA

The only recent Mongolian comment on SDI reported in the press was in the context of discussing the US-Soviet summit meeting in Reykjavik. A commentator for the Mongolian news agency Montsame pointed out that US President Ronald Reagan "continued to defend the ill-famed Strategic Defense Initiative Program" and praised the Soviet Union's efforts to "curb the arms race on earth and in space and prevent the threat of a nuclear cataclysm"

MONGOLIA

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 20 October 1986, p. F1.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

December 1986

Project Manager: Ronald E. Dolan

PREFACE

This monthly publication comprises summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage regarding Asian reactions to the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Most of the items reported in this issue date from the last 60 days. The information used in the summaries is current as of 8 December 1986.

Contributors to this issue are Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, William Shaw, and Roxane Sismanidis.

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ASIA

An article in the Soviet English-language publication Soviet Land (New Delhi) aimed at a wide readership in Asia sought to make several telling points to discredit the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The Kremlin's allegations revolved around the central theme that "Western strategists" were "making persistent efforts to draw Asia and the Pacific into plans for militarization of space." The Soviets further charged that US military facilities and assets in Asia would be supporting SDI, mentioning the installations at Diego Garcia and in Australia by name and asserting that if a space war breaks out, Asians will be its main victims." The narrative also brought to the readers' attention various mishaps in the US space program as evidence that SDI technology is not foolproof, clearly implying that a superpower conflict might be triggered by accident. The article repeated the often-heard Soviet contention that the "militarization of space" through the SDI "would lead to the escalation of the arms race and the deployment of new weapons of destruction in space." It noted Asians' concern about and opposition to the US space defense system as expressed in such fora as the Non-Aligned Movement and concluded that Asians need "Star Peace," not "Stars Wars."

ASIA

Soviet Land (New Delhi & Moscow) no. 14, July 1986, p. 13.

CHINA

Chinese commentary on SDI in late October and November dealt primarily with the role of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in the failure of the October Reykjavik summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Media analyses examined the same themes stressed in October, namely the ascription of the summit failure to US-Soviet disagreement over SDI, the Soviet linkage of SDI to other arms control proposals, West European worries that SDI might undermine West European security, and the impact of SDI on US and Soviet economic and technological development. Two commentaries highlighted Beijing's continuing focus on West European concerns with SDI and other arms-control issues. A Renmin Ribao (Beijing) article examined UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's November visit to Washington to convey West European worries that the arms control proposals agreed upon at Reykjavik "will probably destroy the balance between East and West, endanger NATO's 'nuclear deterrent' strategy, and harm the safety and interests of Western Europe." A Xinhua analysis on the eve of Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' visit to Moscow stressed that the Netherlands has urged the Soviet Union not to link an accord on medium-range missiles in Europe to its demands that the United States limit SDI.

Official Chinese statements dealt with arms-control issues, including SDI. In talks with Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson on 28 October and with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on 9 November, Deng Xiaoping suggested that continued US-Soviet dialogue was preferable to confrontation in order to relax world tensions. On 12 November the Chinese Foreign Ministry released remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian reiterating China's opposition to the "deployment by any country of weapons in outer space," that did not contain the usual inclusion of opposition to testing and development of outer space weapons.

In the United Nations, two Chinese disarmament resolutions, one on nuclear and the other on conventional arms reductions, were adopted by the First Committee of the General Assembly. The two resolutions, neither of which deals with the issue of space weapons or with SDI, are to be submitted to the General Assembly plenary session for approval. In a 25 November UN speech, Chinese representative Huang Jiahua repeated China's opposition to any form of the arms race and militarization in outer space and welcomed the UN's adoption of the draft principles, which were negotiated by the UN Outer Space Committee, on remote sensing of the earth from space.

CHINA

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 43, 27 October 1986, pp. 10-11.

Beijing Review, vol. 29, no. 45, 10 November 1986, pp. 6-7, 10.

China Daily, (Beijing), 27 October 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing) 28 October 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 29 October 1986, pp. 1, 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 19 November 1986, p. 8.

China Daily, (Beijing), 27 November 1986, p. 1.

FBIS/China, 5 November 1986, pp. G2-3.

FBIS/China, 7 November 1986, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 10 November 1986, pp. A1, D11-15.

FBIS/China, 12 November 1986, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 17 November 1986, pp. A1-4.

FBIS/China, 18 November 1986, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 20 November 1986, pp. B2-3.

FBIS/China, 21 November 1986, pp. A1-3, G1-3.

FBIS/China, 25 November 1986, pp. A1-2, C1.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

For the second consecutive month Nodong Sinmun (Pyongyang), the official newspaper of the Korean Workers' Party, published an article critical of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Although the United States was the target in October, Japanese participation in SDI was the subject of November's commentary. The article declared that Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's statements indicating that Japan will withdraw its support for SDI if the United States attempts to establish an offensive space-based missile system are falsehoods. Pyongyang maintains that Nakasone and other "Japanese reactionaries" are willing participants in a US-directed plan to use outer space for military purposes.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

FBIS/ASIA and Pacific, 12 November 1986, p. D5.

INDONESIA

Demonstrating once again its pro-Soviet bias, the left-of-center Indonesian Observer (Jakarta) continued its criticism of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in a series of front-page cartoons. One cartoon notes the opposition to SDI of "almost the entire scientific community" in the United Kingdom in spite of the British Government's decision to participate in the US space defense system. The second and third cartoons note the recent Democratic victories in both houses of the US Congress and express the hope that newly elected Democrats may reduce SDI spending.

The Indonesian-language newspaper Merdeka (Jakarta), owned by the same pro-Soviet publisher as the Observer, was sharply critical of SDI in a series of editorials following the Reykjavik Summit. One editorial dismissed the US space defense system as "a project to safeguard the economy of the capitalist world...." A second editorial noted the Soviet lead in space technology, and Moscow's determination never again to be surprised in case of conflict, as it was in 1941. The author also expressed the view that the Soviets "from the beginning" already knew "about the science of star wars" and that the US effort to develop a space defense system remains "a magic formula for money-making."

The third editorial dismissed the economic and foreign policy of the US administration in simplistic terms and reported that SDI is President Ronald Reagan's "greatest pride." It also admitted the US space defense system disquiets the Soviet Union, and that Moscow is doing its best to thwart SDI. The editorial concluded by reporting the US scientific community's opposition to SDI and by commenting on the high costs of the venture, labelling them "the most horrendous figures in the military planning ever known in the history of mankind."

INDONESIA

Merdeka (Jakarta) 15 October 1986, p. 1 in US Embassy Translation Unit Press Review (Jakarta) no. 189, 1986, p. 1.

Merdeka (Jakarta) 17 October 1986, p. 1 in US Embassy Translation Unit Press Review (Jakarta) no. 191, 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 3 November 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 6 November 1986, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 8 November 1986, p. 1.

JAPAN

Working-level bilateral talks held in Washington in late October about Japanese participation in Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research concluded without reaching agreement on two key issues: commercial use of research findings and protection of technological secrets. An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Japanese reporters that more time will be needed to negotiate these issues. The official stated that further talks would be scheduled after additional consultations among the officials of ministries concerned, including the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Defense Agency, the Foreign Ministry and the Science and Technology Industry.

Prime Minister Nakasone, responding to a question by a Japan Socialist Party Diet member in a House of Councillors committee meeting, stated that Japan would reconsider its participation in SDI research if SDI devices are to be used as nuclear weapons, narrowly defining nuclear weapons as those weapons which use the energy of nuclear explosions to kill or destroy. The Japanese press has noted that SDI technology may use nuclear energy as a power source for x-ray laser weapons, but Nakasone also stated that he does not consider the indirect use of nuclear energy a nuclear weapon.

JAPAN

"Japan Will Review SDI Participation If It Used as N-Weapon: Nakasone," Jiji Press Ticker Service (Tokyo), 11 November 1986. [NEXIS]

"No Accord Set on Japan's Conditions for SDI Research," Kyodo New Service (Tokyo), 1 November 1986. [NEXIS]

"Watanabe Sees 'Long Time' for SDI Negotiations," Jiji Press Ltd (Tokyo), in FBIS/Asia & Pacific (Washington, DC), 7 November 1986, Annex, p. 1.
(FOUO)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

According to the influential daily Kyongyang Sinmun (Seoul), prominent South Korean scientists favor their country's participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) because of the potential technological benefits of the research. The scientists interviewed for the 28 October article believe that SDI will lead to major innovations in computer, laser, and other technologies. The newspaper says that the government is presently considering whether to allow South Korean companies and universities to join in SDI-related research and implies that the scientific community supports the idea.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Kyonghyang Sinmun (Seoul), 28 October 1986, in Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 29 October 1986, pp. 9-10.